

March 17, 2020
For Immediate Release

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Jones County, NC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – Advisory #1

TRENTON, NC – Jones County continues to prepare for / respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In the interest of public health, the following strategies have been put into place:

- Adjustment to District and Superior Court Schedules – Most NC District and Superior Court cases are to be postponed at least 30 days in COVID-19 response. For specific questions about individual cases, visit www.nccourts.gov or call the Jones County Clerk of Superior Court at 252-448-6220.
- Adjustment to Jones County Jail Visitation Policy – Family / ministerial visitation of inmates has been suspended until further notice. Inmate visitation is limited to non-contact visits for attorneys, law enforcement officers, etc. All professional visits will be conducted in the visitation room.
- Employee Travel – Non-essential out-of-county travel for professional conferences and training is restricted, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, until further notice.
- Senior Center Meals – Congregate Nutrition meal services will be suspended at the Senior Services Center and satellite sites in the county, effective March 18, 2020 until April 6, 2020. Meals will be provided via staff delivery from the main center and delivered to those patrons that regularly attend Congregate Nutrition, or clients may pick up from the main site. Home Delivered Meals will provide sealed, single serving meals, effective March 18, 2020 until April 6, 2020.
- Senior Centers – Senior Center activities have been cancelled until further notice.
- County Coordination – Jones County staff is regularly communicating with Jones County Health Department staff and various other partners.
- 911 Communications – 911 Communications staff is utilizing NC Department of Health and Human Services protocol for filtering calls to identify potential active cases.
- Additional Hand Sanitizers Deployed – Additional hand sanitizer dispensers have been deployed throughout county facilities.
- Promotion of Hand-Washing – Signs have been put up around county buildings to promote hand-washing.
- Cleaning Materials / Personal Protective Equipment – Staff have acquired additional cleaning products, hand sanitizers for general staff and facilities and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders.

- Prohibition of Mass Gatherings – Effective Saturday, March 14, 2020, mass gatherings that bring together more than 100 people in a single room or space are prohibited, including an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or other confined indoor or outdoor space, including parades, fairs and festivals.
- Recreation Department – All recreational activities have been postponed until April 6, 2020.
- School Closures – All public schools are closed for students effective Monday, March 16, 2020 until March 30, 2020 unless extended beyond that date. Jones County Public Schools will begin providing a breakfast and lunch meal at all school sites beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. daily. Meals will be distributed in the form of grab-and-go plates and will serve all ages 0-18. Students do not need to be present in order for parents to pick up meals.
- County Business – Citizens are encouraged to conduct county business online / by phone / via drive through window / by drop boxes as much as possible. Examples include:
 - Taxes may be paid online at www.jonescountync.gov – or – Make check payable and remit to: Jones County Tax Collector, 418 Hwy 58 North, Unit E, Trenton, NC 28585.
 - Water payments can be paid online at www.jonescountync.gov – or – Make check payable and remit to: Jones County Water Department, 418 H28 58 North, Unit B, Trenton, NC 28585.
 - For customer convenience, a drive through window and a water bill payment drop box is located in the parking lot of the Jones County Governmental Center at the front of the building.
- Many common NCDMV services, such as driver license renewal and vehicle registration renewal can be performed any time and any place on a computer or mobile device. Please go to <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv>.
- The Department of Social Services will accept and process Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications by telephone. Call 252-448-2581 for more information.
 - For clients who want to avoid conducting services in our facility, a drop box can be used to drop off any information or applications. All items deposited in the box need to be in a sealed envelope with client's name, address and date of birth written on the outside of the envelope.
 - Applications for food and nutrition services and Medicaid can be made on-line with ePASS at <https://epass.nc.gov/CitizenPortal/application.do>

This is a rapidly evolving event. Please maintain awareness and monitor for further updates from Jones County. Also, as per Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advice, stay at home if you are sick, or if you have a sick family member in your home.

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